

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 16666 151021Z

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 16666

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VT, HU

SUBJECT: VATICAN-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS: "BALANCED AND NORMAL"

SUMMARY: POPE PAUL AND HUNGARIAN PREMIER LAZAR MET ON THURSDAY, NOV 13. THIS WAS FIRST SUCH MEETING SINCE WW II. IT TOOK PLACE IN CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE REFLECTING THE OVERALL GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN HOLY SEE AND HUNGARY. POPE'S FORMAL REMARKS POINTED TO HIS SPECIAL INTEREST IN CSCE RESULTS AND COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT BOTH AGREED "TO DO EVERYTHING THEY COULD" SO THAT HELSINKI PRINCIPLES AND SOLUTIONS SERVE TO GUARANTEE "SERENITY AND COOPERATION" IN EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

1. POPE PAUL VI RECEIVED IN PRIVATE AUDIENCE HUNGARY'S PREMIER LAZAR ON THURSDAY, NOV 13, THE FIRST TIME SINCE WW II THAT A HUNGARIAN OF THIS LEVEL WAS RECEIVED AT VATICAN. ACCORDING TO BOTH PRESS AND PRIVATE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, MEETING WAS CORDIAL AND REFLECTED PREVAILING GOOD OVERALL
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PAGE 02 ROME 16666 151021Z

RELATIONS BETWEEN HOLY SEE AND HUNGARY.

2. IN FORMAL REMARKS, POPE DECLARED THAT THE CHURCH ASKS "NO MORE THAN LIBERTY" TO CARRY ON ITS SPIRITUAL MINISTRY AND OFFERS FAITHFUL SERVICE TO MAN -- THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY. HE CALLED FOR "REAL HARMONY" BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE BASED ON SINCERE RESPECT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE ATTRIBUTES AND RIGHTS; AND ASSERTED THAT "RELIGIOUS PEACE" IS PRECIOUS NOT ONLY FOR ITSELF BUT ALSO FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS IT CAN MAKE TO NATIONAL HARMONY AND GENERAL WELFARE, AND THAT THE EFFORTS OF THE CHURCH IN INSTILLING PATRIOTISM AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND COLLABORATION.

3. BILATERAL CONTEXT: THERE ARE NO THORNY OUTSTANDING ISSUES AFFECTING BILATERAL RELATIONS. THIS WAS REFLECTED IN LAZAR'S STATEMENT TO PRESS THAT NOT EVEN THE NOMINATION OF A NEW PRIMATE FOR HUNGARY WAS A PROBLEM, AND THAT "HUNGARY AND THE HOLY SEE MAINTAIN BALANCED AND ABSOLUTELY NORMAL RELATIONS." THE VATICAN COMMUNIQUE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT BOTH PARTIES "WISH TO PROCEED ACTIVELY WITH THEIR ON-GOING CONTACTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINDING APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS TO POINTS UNDER DISCUSSION AND FOR FORTHER IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS." PREMIER LAZAR ALSO TOLD THE PRESS THAT "HOLY SEE AND HUNGARY WERE TRAVERSING A ROAD WHOSE FINAL OBJECTIVE IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS" AND THAT THE QUESTION WOULD BE DEALT WITH IN "NORMAL CONSULTATIONS".

4. HELSINKI CONTEXT: IN FORMAL REMARKS POPE ALSO MANIFESTED HIS SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI DECLARATIONS. ACCORDING TO COMMUNIQUE, BOTH PARTIES "EXPRESSED HOPE AND DETERMINATION TO DO EVERYTHING SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES AND SOLUTIONS AGREED TO BY THE PARTICIPATING STATES FOR REGULATING RELATIONS SERVE TO GUARANTEE EFFICACIOUSLY THE CONTINENT'S SERENITY AND COOPERATION IN ACCORD WITH THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN PEOPLE".

5. (COMMENT: VATICAN BELIEVES THAT MAJOR CATALYST FOR CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN HUNGARIAN RELATIONS WITH HOLY SEE IS STRONG HUNGARIAN DESIRE FOR POPE'S DESIGNATION OF CARDINAL PRIMATE TO REPLACE THE LATE CARDINAL MINDSZENTY.) BEAUDRY

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